



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 January 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Voice of America reports the World Health Organization says Asia is facing one of the largest avian influenza outbreaks ever recorded, which in turn poses a threat to humans. (See item [12](#))
- The Star Tribune reports that with the push of a computer button, within a few minutes, the new emergency phone notification system can call anywhere from dozens to thousands of emergency workers or citizens who could be affected by disease outbreaks, escaped prisoners, terrorism or weather emergencies. (See item [16](#))
- The BBC News reports virus writers are setting up peer-to-peer networks to help their malicious code spread; such networks can control thousands of PCs that virus programs have infected, because peer-to-peer networks are hard to disrupt. (See item [19](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *January 22, Pacific Daily News (Guam)* — Explosion causes outage. The Guam Power Authority (GPA) restored power to most of the island by 8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, several hours after a breaker at the Hagatna–Mongmong substation exploded.

Officials did not know what caused the explosion. GPA Assistant General Manager Joaquin Flores said the explosion happened at 12:57 p.m. and within a few minutes the entire island was without power. "It is what we call a bulk substation because it handles up to 19 major lines and what happened is one breaker in the middle of the whole cluster just blew," Flores said. Flores said the surge was too much for the agency's system to isolate and forced all the power stations to trip off to protect the generators from damage. No one was injured in the explosion, he said. Flores said the explosion blew the lid off the breaker and discharged the machine's oil several feet into the air. A portion of the breaker at the substation was charred black from the burning oil. Though he does not know what caused the explosion, Flores said it could possibly be from wear and tear, noting that the breaker and several others at the substation were installed in 1954.

Source: <http://www.guampdn.com/news/stories/20040122/localnews/26850.8.html>

2. *January 20, Pittsburgh Post–Gazette (PA)* — **Dominion Peoples workers on strike. A union representing 420 utility workers struck Dominion Peoples natural gas company, in southwestern Pennsylvania, starting Monday, January 19, forcing the company to use supervisors and salaried workers to make emergency repairs.** Robert Mitchell, the union's president, acknowledged that winter is the worst time for service disruption from the customers' point of view. The union represents maintenance employees, meter readers and customer service workers. The company has proposed shifting more of the rising costs of its health–care coverage to employees and retirees and is proposing changes to the pension program, including capping service for pension earnings purposes at 30 years. **The company on Monday directed its customer service department to check in on elderly or infirm customers and others known to have special needs,** said Dominion Peoples spokesperson Elmore Lockley.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/04020/263367.stm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *January 16, Army News Service* — **Army and NASA ink partnership for space technology. An Army research and development center has entered a partnership with NASA to provide technology to the Space Shuttle program, and at the same time, transfer NASA technology to Army ground vehicle development.** The results of this partnership by the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) will impact not only the lives of countless soldiers, but also will affect the future and safety of space exploration, TARDEC officials said. The TARDEC engineers plan to share technology on remotely detecting debris and ice on external fuel tanks prior to launch; using experience with color–image processing to suggest methods to augment existing shuttle tile inspection methodology; and using 3–D technology and displays to assist with space station and satellite deployment and maintenance, said Dr. Thomas Meitzler, who heads TARDEC's Visual

Perception Laboratory and leads this effort on behalf of TARDEC. **The Army gains by using newly derived applied and enhanced technologies for a variety of local and remote operational objectives, including identification of friend-or-foe and battlefield vehicle damage assessment, Meitzler said.**

Source: http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=5598

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

4. *January 21, The Honolulu Advertiser* — **Coast Guard to expand operations in Hawaii.** About 80 new Coast Guard personnel and six speedy 25-foot boats packing extra firepower will be added to Honolulu port security by the end of the year as part of national homeland security efforts. Vice Adm. Terry M. Cross, the Coast Guard's Pacific commander, said that **Honolulu, San Diego and Alaska are getting the specialized Maritime Safety & Security Teams (MSST), which were created in response to the 9/11 attacks and are part of a layered strategy to protect America's seaports and waterways.** Among other Pacific regions, Seattle, San Francisco and the Los Angeles/Long Beach area have teams in position. The MSST to some extent will allow other Coast Guard boats to return to more traditional missions, Cross said. Before 9/11, port and waterway security accounted for less than five percent of the Coast Guard's mission, Cross said. After the attacks, that focus jumped to nearly 50 percent, but Cross said that has dropped as manpower, financing and efficiency were increased. MSSTs are staffed with about 100 Coast Guard personnel, including some reservists. Crews are armed with machine guns and shotguns. The 25-foot boats they use are intended for rapid response and can be transported via C-130 aircraft. Adding bomb-sniffing dogs for vessel checks also is being considered.

Source: <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2004/Jan/20/ln/ln01a.html>

5. *January 19, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-165: Freight Transportation: Strategies Needed to Address Planning and Financing Limitations (Report).** The General Accounting Office (GAO) was asked to address (1) the challenges to freight mobility, (2) the limitations key stakeholders have encountered in addressing these challenges, and (3) strategies that may aid decision makers in enhancing freight mobility. **The major challenges to freight mobility share a common theme—congestion. National studies point to such problems as overcrowded highways and freight-specific “chokepoints” that stifle effective intermodal transfer of cargoes.** All 10 ports GAO studied faced similar congestion related problems. For example, many of the ports are in dense urban areas, limiting the ability to expand rail yards, roadways, and other infrastructure. Increased port security measures may exacerbate congestion if new controls drastically slow the movement of goods. GAO recommends that the Secretary of Transportation take steps to facilitate state and local planners’ use of better methods and tools to make freight transportation investment decisions. Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04165high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-165>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

6. *January 21, DM News* — **USPS expands Carrier Pickup program.** Seven weeks into its Carrier Pickup pilot program, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has received over 650 requests to pick up more than 17,500 packages in the six participating districts, the agency said Tuesday, January 20. **Carrier Pickup is a USPS service that lets customers go online to request next-day package pickups.** There is no pickup fee because the packages are picked up from the customers as part of the carrier's normal delivery route. Packages must be prepared with the appropriate postage and ready to go before they are picked up. Taking part are the Santa Ana, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Van Nuys districts in California, the Arizona district and the Long Island district. **Carrier Pickup expands February 1 to city ZIP codes in which carriers operate.**

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=26254

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

7. *January 21, Reuters* — **Thailand to cull millions of chickens to halt cholera.** Thailand will slaughter millions of chickens in a bid to halt the spread of cholera threatening one of the world's largest poultry industries, Deputy Agriculture Minister Newin Chidchob said on Wednesday, January 21. The cholera outbreak has dented confidence in a major export industry that earns one billion dollars in exports each year. **Since November 21, nearly 900,000 chickens have died in Thailand, of which nearly 30,000 were confirmed to have been killed by cholera and respiratory problems and the rest through culling because they showed symptoms of the disease, Newin said.** He said culling would be stepped up in five provinces, Nakhon Sawan, Chachoengsao, Suphan Buri, Ang Thong, and Nakhon Pathom. **Any chicken, sick or healthy, found within three miles of an affected farm will be slaughtered. Every farm within 30 miles of an affected operation would be inspected and sick chickens destroyed.** The government announced last Friday that no chickens, whether bred on farms or in villages, would be allowed to move until the flock had been inspected and certified free of disease.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BKK281472.htm>

8. *January 21, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center* — **Satellites improve response to agricultural change.** NASA's Earth satellite observing systems are helping the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) improve the accuracy and timeliness of information they provide about important crops around the world. FAS information is crucial in decisions affecting U.S. agriculture, trade policy, and food aid. NASA and the University of Maryland are providing the FAS with observations and data products from instruments on NASA's Aqua and Terra satellites and from the TOPEX/Poseidon, Jason

and Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) satellites. **NASA products allow FAS analysts to distinguish between different crops such as wheat and rice and permit analysts to measure other features like surface temperature and snow cover. Analysts can gauge the health of agriculture by comparing recent and historic data.** Frequent satellite observations are important so analysts can assess how natural disasters such as fires, volcanic eruptions, floods, storms, or even extreme temperatures, affect crops. NASA's Rapid Response System processes and delivers observations to FAS usually less than four hours after it is collected. Altimetry data from the TOPEX/Poseidon and Jason satellites are used to monitor the water level of 100 lakes and reservoirs around the world.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/01/040121081028.htm>

9. *January 20, Xinhuanet* — **Bird flu found in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) found H5N1 virus in a dead Peregrine falcon on Wednesday and has stepped up monitoring of biosecurity measures at chicken farms and surveillance of wild birds.** The measures taken are aimed to prevent any outbreak of avian influenza in chickens. The AFCD collected the dead Peregrine falcon near the Gold Coast residential development in Tuen Mun on January 19 for diagnostic testing and H5N1 virus was tested positive in swab and tissue samples of the falcon. A histopathology examination is being conducted to establish the cause of death of the bird. "As there are two chicken farms in Tuen Mun, staff have been deployed to inspect these farms. There was no abnormal mortality and the chickens showed no symptoms of avian influenza," said AFCD's Assistant Director Lai Ching-wai. **Lai said that, the AFCD will continue to inspect the chicken farms and to observe wild birds and birds at recreational parks.** Staff will be deployed to collect feces from wild birds for tests.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-01/21/content_1286310.htm

10. *January 20, Pro Farmer* — **BSE depopulation completed at some locations.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) completed selective depopulation operations on the facility in Mattawa, Washington. USDA has transported and sampled a total of 39 animals from this facility. Selective depopulation has also been completed at the index premises; 131 animals from the index premises have been euthanized and sampled. **To date, 121 samples from the index herd have completed bovine spongiform encephalopathy(BSE) testing; results have been negative.** Results from the Mattawa herd are not yet available. USDA's investigation into the 81 cows that came from Canada continues. In total, 23 of the 81 cows that came from Canada have been located.

Source: http://www.agweb.com/news_show_news_article.asp?file=AgNewsArticle_2004120163_4012&articleID=105088&newscat=GN

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

11. *January 21, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **BSE scare hurts midwest meatpacking.** On December 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had been discovered in a cow in Washington state. More than 30 countries banned U.S. beef products, and slaughter cattle prices dropped about 18 percent. **Meatpacking plants from Minnesota to Texas and from Iowa to Idaho have since cut jobs**

because some of the secondary meats they produce, such as beef tongue and intestines, primarily go to international markets. A Wichita, KS, meatpacker laid off 700 workers at five plants in Texas, Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska because of the loss of export markets for secondary meats. Another meatpacker has cut 140 jobs in Colorado, Nebraska, Texas, and Idaho for much the same reason. **If export markets don't open within a year, job losses could grow and spill over into feedlots, equipment, and supply companies for meatpacking plants and retail businesses in Midwest towns,** Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss said. Nebraska could lose 21,000 jobs, Kansas 17,000, Iowa 6,800 and Minnesota and South Dakota each about 2,300, Goss estimated in a Midwest business conditions survey issued earlier this month.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=23186

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

12. *January 21, Voice of America* — **Asia faces large outbreak of bird flu. The World Health Organization (WHO) says Asia is facing one of the largest bird flu outbreaks ever recorded, which in turn poses a threat to humans.** The WHO says the size of the outbreak of avian influenza in Asia is unprecedented. **The H5N1 virus, which is linked to five human deaths in Vietnam, has been found in poultry in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Vietnam.** Bob Dietz, a WHO spokesman in Hanoi says the outbreak in chickens is not yet under control and some human cases may be going unnoticed. "It's hard to tell from the limited window we have, the disease surveillance system, whether we're seeing a full clear picture," he said. **Doctors in Vietnam are testing 17 people for all known types of avian influenza.** In the past two months, the virus has spread quickly to bird farms around the region. The bird flu first crossed to humans in Hong Kong in 1997. Six of the 18 people infected then died.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=A2BFC7FF-64FD-484A-A5750560CDD79659>

13. *January 21, Orlando Business Journal* — **Health plans focus on bioterror preparation.** The Florida Association of Health Plans has brought together executives from the state's health insurance programs with government, law enforcement, and public health officials to discuss how they can help prepare for bioterrorism. The Florida Association of Health Plans has created a committee of health plan executives and disaster preparedness public officials. **Florida's health plans can educate and disseminate information to health care providers, employers, and health plan members. They also have clinical staff, office space, technology, and facilities that could be put into service in the event of a disaster.**

Source: <http://orlando.bizjournals.com/orlando/stories/2004/01/19/day12.html>

14.

January 21, Associated Press — **Vietnam bird flu fears grow. Fears over Asia's bird flu outbreak spiraled Wednesday, January 21, as worst-hit Vietnam admitted that nearly 900,000 chickens possibly exposed to the virus had been sold to the public.** The bird flu ravaging poultry farms in Asia has killed five people, all in Vietnam, and millions of chickens. International health experts are trying to find a vaccine for humans. But making sure the vaccine is safe for the public could be a lengthy process, World Health Organization spokesman Bob Dietz said Wednesday. "It could be several months to several years" before it's ready, he said. News that potentially sick birds were sold to the public in Vietnam before a mass destruction of fowl was ordered prompted new health worries there. "There've been nearly 900,000 chickens that farmers have sold to the market from the beginning of January," said Nguyen Van Thong, deputy director of the veterinary department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. **The chickens were still alive when sold. "We have no idea whether these chickens were killed and eaten or slaughtered," he said.**

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2004-01-21-vietnam_x.htm

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

15. *January 21, Government Technology* — U.S. Conference of Mayors' winter meeting opens.

With the presidential primaries under way and on the heels of the State of the Union Address, more than 250 of the nation's mayors, led by Conference President and Hempstead, NY, Mayor James A. Garner, gather this morning, January 21, in Washington, DC, for the 72nd Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, running through January 23 at the Capital Hilton Hotel. **On Thursday, the mayors will release a second homeland security report: Tracking Federal Homeland Security Funds.** See report:

<http://www.usmayors.org/72ndWinterMeeting/Agenda.pdf>

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=85454>

[[Return to top](#)]

Emergency Services Sector

16. *January 21, Star Tribune (Eagan, MN)* — Automated phone system helps locate missing girl.

Eagan, MN, police say their new emergency phone notification system worked like a charm Monday, January 19, when a missing girl was located within an hour after residents and businesses in the area where she was last seen were contacted. **With the push of a computer button, the service can call anywhere from dozens to thousands of emergency workers or citizens who could be affected by disease outbreaks, escaped prisoners, terrorism or weather emergencies. The systems usually include a computerized map on which police or emergency workers can outline what area will be called, officials said.** Eagan decided to deploy its system, when a 15-year-old emotionally disturbed girl ran away from her mother's car near Oak Ridge Elementary School about 4:35 p.m. Monday, January 19. Within six minutes of activating the system, it had called 1,572 phone numbers within a mile of where the girl fled, Ruby said. Washington County has been testing a similar phone system for about a year and has used it once, said Debra Paige, emergency services manager. That was in October,

when automated calls went to schools, businesses and homes around Stillwater prison when an inmate was missing. Followup calls were made when he was found on prison grounds, Paige said. That system took eight minutes to call about 1,460 people.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/stories/462/4330226.html>

17. *January 21, The Army National Guard* — **U.S. to increase WMD civil support teams.** The Defense Department (DoD) plans to stand up more National Guard–staffed civil support teams trained to assist local authorities in the event of a weapons of mass destruction attack on the American homeland, a senior DoD official said January 16. **There are currently 32 WMD civil support teams with the skills and equipment to detect chemical, biological, nuclear and explosive agents in support of emergency first responders in event of an attack,** noted Paul McHale, assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense. U.S. officials believe terrorist organizations like al Qaeda could very well attempt to use WMDs to attack the American populace, key infrastructure or defense industries, McHale pointed out. He said he envisions civilian law enforcement officials would work closely with the National Guard in the event of an attack threat on U.S. defense industry "to provide a physical layer of protection to that defense industrial base or to that plant in order to ensure its continuing operation."

Source: <http://www.arng.army.mil/news/>

18. *January 21, Department of Homeland Security* — **Department of Homeland Security and Operation HOPE, Inc., formalize partnership in HOPE Coalition America.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Los Angeles–based Operation HOPE, Inc., signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today, January 21, initiating a new financial advisory service to enhance the recovery process for those affected by natural disasters and national emergencies. **"The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are committed to accessing every available public and private means to support those impacted by natural disasters and emergencies," said Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge.** Under the new agreement between Homeland Security's FEMA and HOPE Coalition America, disaster victims who contact FEMA following a Presidentally–declared disaster or emergency will be directed to HOPE Coalition America to receive free financial counseling. "The United States has the world's strongest network of first responders to the immediate health, safety and infrastructure needs after disasters, and HOPE Coalition America will make it even stronger by working to address the economic and financial challenges of communities that are devastated by disasters," said John Bryant, founder of Operation HOPE and HOPE Coalition America.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2950>

[[Return to top](#)]

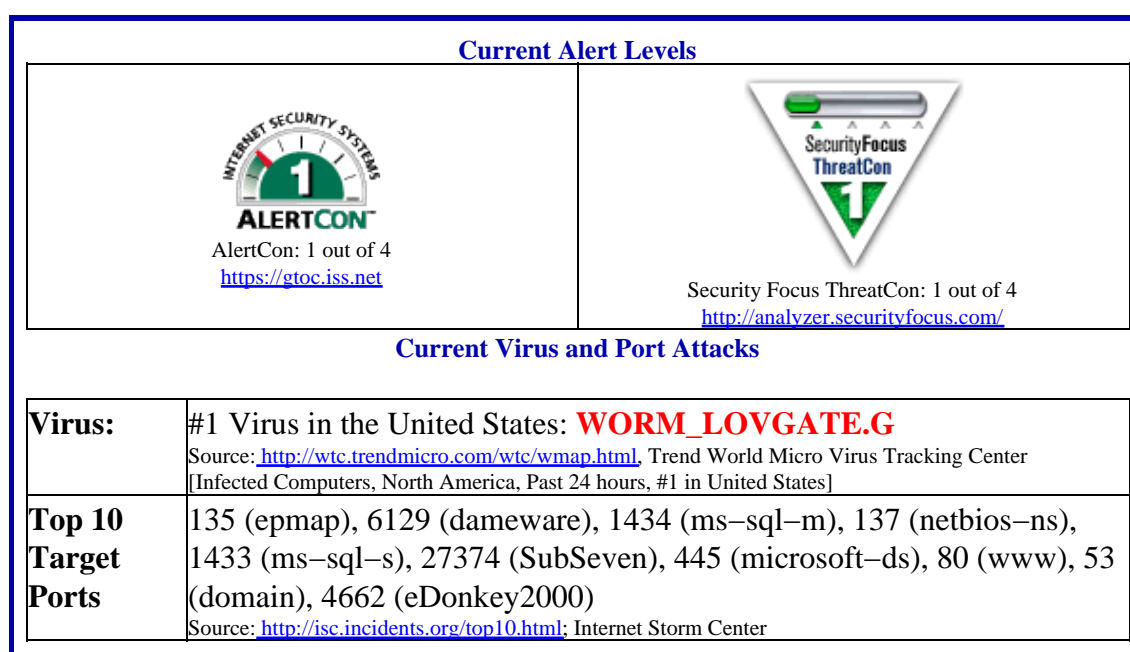
Information and Telecommunications Sector

19. *January 20, BBC News* — **Viruses turn to peer–to–peer nets. Virus writers are setting up peer–to–peer networks to help their malicious creations spread. The networks are being used to control thousands of innocent PCs that some virus programs have infected. The tactic is being used because peer–to–peer networks are hard to disrupt, making viruses using this technique hard to stop spreading.** One of the first viruses to set up a peer–to–peer network to help it spread was the Slapper worm that was aimed at the Linux operating system.

A Windows virus called Sinit appeared in late 2003 that turned every machine infected by the malicious program into a member of a peer-to-peer network. It was expected that Sinit's creator would issue commands to infected computers via this network. **In the past some creators of Trojan programs, that open up a backdoor into an infected PC, have used net chat channels as a way to issue commands.** Often thousands of computers were enrolled in these remote controlled networks that have been dubbed "bot nets." Finding and shutting down the chat channels would effectively cut a virus writer off from his network of slave machines. But shutting down a distributed network would be much more difficult because no one machine is in charge. It also is much more difficult to trace where commands were being inserted and find the network's controller.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3409187.stm>

Internet Alert Dashboard



[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

20. *January 20, U.S. Department of State* — **Public announcement.** This Public Announcement replaces the Travel Warning dated December 20, 2002. It is being issued to reflect the decrease in incidents of political violence in Dushanbe and the rest of Tajikistan. **The Department of State reminds U.S. citizens, however, that the potential for terrorist actions against Americans in Tajikistan remains.** U.S. citizens should evaluate carefully the implications for their security and safety before deciding to travel to Tajikistan. This Public Announcement expires on July 19, 2004. **The political security situation in Tajikistan has improved in the last two years. Nevertheless, terrorist groups allied with al Qaeda, such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), remain active in Tajikistan and still pose risks to travelers.** In the past, the IMU has been responsible for hostage-takings and border skirmishes near the Uzbek-Tajik-Kyrgyz border areas. The U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe continues to

observe heightened security precautions. Before traveling outside of Dushanbe, U.S. citizens should check with the U.S. Embassy to obtain the most up-to-date security information. Departure options from Tajikistan may be limited in an emergency. U.S. citizens are urged to register and update their contact information at the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe and should consult the Department of State's Website at <http://travel.state.gov>. Source: http://travel.state.gov/tajikistan_announce.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703-883-6631

Subscription and Distribution Information: Send mail to nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 703-883-6631 for more information.

Contact DHS/IAIP

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov or call 202-323-3204.

DHS/IAIP Disclaimer

The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. This is an internal DHS/IAIP tool intended to serve the informational needs of DHS/IAIP personnel and other interested staff. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions of the content. The IAIP provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or of accuracy in respect of the original source material.